

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINSHA 03411 081414Z  
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 INR-10 L-03  
PM-05 NSC-05 CIAE-00 /063 W  
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R 081240Z APR 78  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9112  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMCONSUL STUTTGART  
AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI  
AMCONSUL BUKAVU  
SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 3411

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EAIR, PEPR, TSPA, CG, CW, UR, XJ  
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH OTRAG OFFICIALS

REF: A) STATE 77496; B) BONN 5086; C) LUBUMBASHI 255

1. SUMMARY: OTRAG OFFICIALS LUBERMAN, PIEKATZ, AND TUCHHANDLER CALLED ON AMBASSADOR APRIL 6 TO DISCUSS UPCOMING ROCKET TEST AND RELATED PUBLICITY PLANS. SECOND LAUNCH IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR AFTER MID-MAY. OTRAG PRESIDENT LUTZ KAYSER IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN ZAIRE IN EARLY MAY TO PREPARE FOR THE LAUNCH AND MIGHT RETURN HERE IN EARLY JUNE TO PARTICIPATE IN A SEMINAR/PRESS BRIEFING OTRAG IS ORGANIZING. THE PURPOSE OF JUNE PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT WILL BE TO COUNTER SOME OF THE ADVERSE PUBLICITY THE PROJECT IS CONTINUING TO RECEIVE (SUCH AS THE RECENT PENTHOUSE ARTICLE). THERE REMAINS A CONFIDENTIAL

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POSSIBILITY THAT GOZ MAY WISH TO ORGANIZE A GROUP TOUR OF LAUNCH SITE, BUT OTRAG, FOR TECHNICAL REASONS, IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SUCH A TOUR. END SUMMARY.

2. AT OTRAG REQUEST, AMBASSADOR MET WITH KLAUS PIEKATZ, ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF OTRAG'S ZAIRE OPERATION, DR. K. TUCHHANDLER, HIS ASSISTANT,

AND DR. LUBERMAN OF THEIR MUNCIH OFFICE. LUBERMAN, WHO WAS MAKING ONE OF HIS FREQUENT VISITS TO ZAIRE, EXPLAINED CURRENT STATE OF OTRAG OPERATIONS AND PLANS TO GENERATE SOME POSITIVE PUBLICITY IN CONNECTION WITH THE UPCOMING SECOND TEST LAUNCH. OTRAG IS IN THE PROCESS OF MOVING ITS HEADQUARTERS FROM LUBUMBASHI TO KINSHASA; PIEKATZ WILL CONTINUE TO RUN OFFICE. THEY HAD PLANNED TO SET UP A SEMINAR/PRESS CONFERENCE IN KINSHASA FOR PERSONS WITH LEGITIMATE INTEREST IN THE OTRAG OPERATION (E.G. AMBASSADORS OF NEIGHBORING OR OTHERWISE CONCERNED COUNTRIES, "RESPONSIBLE" JOURNALISTS, AND LOCAL DIGNITARIES) BEFORE SECOND TEST IN MAY. THIS WOULD HAVE INCLUDED A BRIEFING BY KAYSER, A FILM, AND A RECEPTION. ALTHOUGH THE GOZ HAD CONSIDERED DOING THIS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ACTUAL LAUNCH, AND POSSIBLY TO INCLUDE A TRIP TO THE SITE TO WATCH THE TEST, KAYSER OBJECTED ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS, SAYING THAT SUCH ACTIVITIES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO INTERFERE WITH COUNTDOWN AND LAUNCH ITSELF. OTRAG HAS REQUESTED THAT MAIN PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT BE DELAYED UNTIL EARLY JUNE. FROM PRESIDENCY COUNSELOR BOKANA'S REACTION, LUBERMAN BELIEVES THAT THE GOZ WILL AGREE. HOWEVER, HE DID NOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOZ MIGHT EXTEND TO SELECTED DIGNITARIES AN INVITATION TO VIEW THE LAUNCH. LUBERMAN SAID OTRAG IN GENERAL IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TOURS OF THE SITE, AND IN FACT, THERE IS LITTLE THERE TO SEE EXCEPT DURING LAUNCH PERIOD. NEVERTHELESS, HE SAID THAT IF REPRESENTATIVES OF EMBASSY OR CONSULATE WISHED TO VISIT THE SITE, SOMETHING COULD BE ARRANGED.

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3. AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE BRIEFING ON OTRAG ACTIVITIES AND NOTED VALUE OF THOUGHTFUL PUBLIC RELATIONS EFFORT, SINCE AS ALREADY EVIDENT AN OPERATION LIKE OTRAG CAN EASILY BE MISINTERPRETED OR MISREPRESENTED. LUBERMAN MENTIONED UNINTENTIONAL TIMING OF THE LAST TEST,(WHICH COINCIDED WITH THE ARRIVAL IN SHABA OF FRG VICE CHANCELLOR GENSCHER), AS THE SORT OF HAPPENSTANCE WHICH HAS STRENGTHENED SUSPICION THAT THERE IS A LINK BETWEEN OTRAG AND THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT.

4. LUBERMAN'S COMMENTS ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF OTRAG OPEATIONS ARE BEING POUCHED TO AF/C,  
CUTLER

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Type:** TE  
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